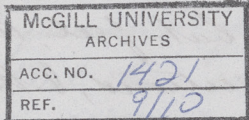


Mr Dawson  
Pictou  
Novascotia





Edinburgh 18 Bruneluch place  
5<sup>th</sup> July 1848

My Dear Sister

The letter which you lately wrote to your Father he was kind enough to show me, & I am glad to learn by it that you & baby are both well. It afforded us all much pleasure to hear at the time of your safe delivery & that by the Lord's gracious goodness every thing was as favourable as your fondest wishes could desire. And I trust that he will be pleased to be a blessing to you in being made a partaker of that salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory, which must ever be the highest happiness Christian parents can receive in this world in regard to their children. And as it respects your temporal & domestic relations, it is highly gratifying to know, that you have such an affectionate husband & so many kind friends willing to administer to your comfort, for which you no doubt feel thankful, & which is also cause of thanksgiving by all your friends here, who feel so much interested in your well being.

I was also pleased to see the state of mind in which you appear to be in regard to spiritual matters, for these are certainly what of all others most deeply concern us. For however important many of the relations of life are, & the duties connected with them, they are nevertheless but for a limited period. Time is short. It therefore remaineth that they who have wives, be as tho. they had none; & they that weep, as tho. they wept not; & they that rejoice, as tho. they rejoiced not &c.; for the fashion of this world passeth away. When we then place the things of time, in the light of the word of God, & allow our minds to dwell on

their fleeting nature, & consider that we ourselves are standing as it were on the threshold of eternity, we cannot but feel, that we give them too often an undue place in our affections, & that they are neither crucified to us, nor we to them, in the measure felt & expressed by the Apostle Paul, who, in his exhortations & example, calls on us to follow him. And if we feel aright in respect to this matter, we cannot but be deeply humbled in the sight of God, & led with the Psalmist to pray, quicken them me according to thy word. But as I have already said, I am much pleased to see the state of mind in which you are, in regard to the truth, & the interest you still take in the Church. And I am the more pleased at the manner in which you express yourself, as I feared that your mind had in some degree cooled to the truth: for I feel bound, both in faithfulness & love to say, that from the manner in which you left us, without any expressions of your Christian <sup>love</sup>, in requesting an interest in the prayers of your brethren, either for your personal safety in a long & perilous voyage, or that you might be preserved steadfast in the faith & hope of the gospel, when far separated from them, & deprived of those spiritual privileges you had enjoyed in the Ordinances of Christ's house, & the Communion of Saints: & having reached your destination in safety, that you should neither have asked us to join with you in thanksgiving to the Father of mercies for his goodness in thus preserving you, nor that you might be enabled to bear testimony to his grace, by holding fast the faith, & walking in his fear. But your letter has greatly relieved my mind, & I hope you will be able before long to accomplish your intention of writing to the Church.

The situation in which you are now placed, is indeed far from being favourable to your growth in the divine life, but the Lord knoweth them that are his, & will provide bread for his chosen, & cause water to spring up in dry places, to refresh & cheer them in their journey through this wilderness.

You may be said to have but entered on the journey, & consequently ignorant of many of the difficulties to be encountered in the way. But those who have been longest on the road, know only the difficulties they have already past, they know nothing of those which are yet before them, & must therefore continue to trust alone to the grace of him, who has brought them thus far, to carry them through the remaining part of their journey. In the same quarter you must therefore also look, & ever have your mind directed to him, in whom all fulness dwells, for grace to help in time of need. And see, my dear Sister, that you make the Word of God, that blessed treasure, your close companion, & that you give heed to it as to a light that shineth in a dark place, that you may be preserved from wandering out of the way. For be assured, that many are the snares & pitfalls which beset our path, besides the enemies which lurk within our own hearts, & from which we are in continual danger. So that we have much reason to pray with the Psalmist who felt the power of these enemies, - "Hold up my goings in thy paths, that my footsteps slip not. - Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings." But I must conclude these remarks, & in doing so, I commend you to God, & to the word of his grace, for he it is alone who can keep both you & I from falling, & present us faultless before the presence of his glory, with exceeding joy.

Remember me kindly to your husband. My wife & Sister join me in Christian love to you. You will hear all other particulars respecting your own relatives & friends, as we as of the Church, from your Father, so that I have only to subscribe myself

Yours affectionately  
for the truth's sake  
John Gorton